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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/915,609
Filing Date: July 26, 2001
Appellant(s): SADOT, EMEK ET AL.

MAILED

DEC 06 2006

Technology Center 2100

Joseph B. Ryan
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 9/20/06 appealing from the Office action mailed 4/18/06.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

6772333	Brendel et al	8-2004
5774668	Choquier et al.	6-1998
6138120	Gongwer et al.	10-2000
6611498	Baker et al.	8-2003

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

This action, mailed 4/18/06, is responding to application amendment filed 3/14/2006.

Claims **1 - 22** are pending. Independent claims are **1, 19**.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

The text of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 1 - 5, 7 - 12, 14 - 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brendel (US Patent No. 6,772,333) in view of Choquier et al. (US Patent No. 5,774,668) and further in view of Gongwer et al. (US Patent No. 6,138,120).

Regarding Claim 1, **Brendel discloses a method of load balancing messages to servers of a server farm, by a load balancer, comprising:**

- b) determining, by the load balancer, for at least some client messages including a non-empty session ID field, which server or sub-group of servers is associated with the ID in the ID field, responsive to the configured information; (see Brendel col. 5, lines 61-67: determine designated server from multiple server for client-server message processing) and
- c) selecting, by the load balancer, a server to receive each of the at least some client messages, at least partially responsive to the determination. (see Brendel col. 9, lines 2-7: load balancer extracts session ID and server information for client-server message processing)

Brendel discloses the setup of session identification information such as generating session ID values. Brendel does not specifically disclose a session identifier being selected from a range of values or a session identifier being selected from a pool of unassigned session identifiers.

However, Choquier and Gongwer disclose:

- a) configuring the load balancer with information specifying a pre-assignment of different groups of session ID values to respective ones of the servers, each of said servers being operative to assign session ID values from its associated one of the pre-assigned groups to sessions handled by that server; (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing a range of values

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assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor) and utilized in the generation of a calculated ID value (i.e. session ID or session information)) and (see Gongwer col. 2, lines 2-5; col. 9, lines 52-54; col. 12, lines 54-57; col. 12, lines 62-65: session identifier selected from pool of unassigned session identifiers)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values to be used generating session ID values for a load management system as taught by Choquier, and to enable the selection of a session identifier from a pool of session identifiers as taught by Gongwer. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58: "*... mechanisms for dynamically balancing the processing load among the application servers ... mechanisms for dynamically allocating processing resources ... so that fluctuations in usage levels ... can be efficiently accommodated...*"), and to employ Gongwer in order to enable the usage of shared transactions and resources across multiple independent client sessions. (see Gongwer col. 1, lines 55-61: "*... a mechanism ... permit sharing of the uncommitted data values between the independent clients ... supports the sharing of session, query, stored procedure, and transaction context across multiple, independent client applications. The system includes a number of discrete technologies and techniques ...*").

Regarding Claim 2, Brendel discloses managing a table which lists for at least one of the servers or sub-groups of servers a table of session IDs utilized in the load

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management of a plurality of servers. (see Brendel col. 5, lines 46-49; col. 5, lines 61-67: session ID table utilized for management of client-server message) Brendel does not specifically disclose a range of values for session IDs utilized managing system load capabilities. However, Choquier discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein configuring the load balancer comprises a range of values from which the server may assign session IDs. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: a load management system utilizing of a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. CPU, server, processor) within a group; values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, server information))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values to be used generating session ID values for a load management system as taught by Choquier. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers. (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58)

Regarding Claim 3, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein configuring the load balancer comprises managing a table which lists for at least one of the servers or sub-groups of servers, one or more values of a sub-set of the bits of session IDs associated with the server. (see Brendel col. 9, lines 7-10; col. 15, lines 4-4: server ID information encoded within session ID field, sub-group of servers to process session ID messages)

Regarding Claim 4, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein configuring the load balancer comprises providing a function which correlates between session IDs and the server which assigned the session ID. (see Brendel col. 7, lines 41-50; col. 7, lines 61-64: atomic operation (i.e. function) managing session IDs indicating assigned server to process client requests)

Regarding Claim 5, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, comprising configuring at least one of the servers with a rule on the session ID values it may assign to sessions. (see Brendel col. 8, lines 35-42: designation or means (i.e. rule) to uniquely generate a session ID for session identification)

Regarding Claim 7, Brendel does not disclose configuration information transmitted to a server for client-server message processing. However, Choquier discloses a method according to claim 5, wherein configuring the load balancer comprises configuring automatically by a module running on the load balancer, which transmits configuration instructions to at least one of the servers. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing configuration information (i.e. range of values) for an entity (i.e. server, processor); values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, server information))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values to be used generating

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session ID values for a load management system as taught by Choquier. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers. (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58)

Regarding Claim 8, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 7, wherein configuring automatically by the load balancer comprises configuring responsive to input received from the at least one of the servers. (see Brendel col. 8, lines 16-18: session ID generated by server based on means, transmitted to load balancer for placement in session ID table)

Regarding Claim 9, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 5, wherein configuring at least one of the servers comprises configuring substantially all the servers in the farm with respective sub-groups of allowed session IDs which do not include common session IDs. (see Brendel col. 4, lines 29-32: unique session IDs generated for usage within load management system)

Regarding Claim 10, Brendel discloses using a load balancer and at least one server in a load management system. (see Brendel col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4: client-server message processing system utilizing session ID table) Brendel does not disclose a subset of available session IDs not assigned to any servers. However, Choquier discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein at least some of a plurality of

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available session IDs are not assigned to any of the servers. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: a load management system utilizing of a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. CPU, server, processor) within a group; values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, session information))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values used generating session ID values and selecting a subset of values not available for assignment by servers as taught by Choquier. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers. (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58)

Regarding Claim 11, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein configuring substantially all the servers comprises assigning substantially a same number of session IDs to each of the servers. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: a load management system utilizing of a range of values and a number of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor); values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, session information))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values used generating session ID values utilized in a load management system and selecting a number of values for each entity as taught by Choquier. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load

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among a set of servers. (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58)

Regarding Claim 12, Brendel discloses using a configured load balancer and at least one server in a load management system. (see Brendel col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4: client-server message processing utilizing session ID table for load management)

However, Choquier discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein configuring substantially all the servers comprises assigning different numbers of session IDs to at least two of the servers. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: a load management system utilizing of a range of values and selecting a different number of values for two entities (i.e. server, processor); values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, session information))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values used generating session ID values utilized in a load management system as taught by Choquier. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers. (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58)

Regarding Claim 14, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein selecting a server to receive a client message comprises selecting a server which assigned the session ID of the message. (see Brendel col. 5, lines 61-67: client request directed to assigned server based on session ID value)

Regarding Claim 15, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein selecting a server to receive a client message comprises selecting a server in a sub-group of servers which shares information with a server which assigned the session ID of the message. (see Brendel col. 5, lines 46-49; col. 14, lines 55-63: client requests directed to assigned server based on session ID, single server or a set of servers selected to process client requests)

Regarding Claim 16, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein the client messages comprise SSL client messages. (see Brendel col. 7, lines 26-31: SSL technology utilized in message processing)

Regarding Claim 17, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein the session ID values comprise application layer ID values. (see Brendel col. 5, lines 13-17: application aware load balancer looks within IP packets data payload for useful information (i.e. session ID value) for load management system)

Regarding Claim 18, Brendel discloses a method according to claim 1, additionally comprising managing a list of ID values actually assigned by one or more servers and determining, by the load balancer, for at least some client messages including a non-empty session ID field, which server or sub-group of servers is associated with the ID in the ID field, responsive to the managed list. (see Brendel col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4;

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col. 15, lines 4-4: load balancer utilizing a list of session IDs to enable efficient system load management)

Regarding Claim 19, Brendel discloses a load balancer, comprising:

- b) an input interface adapted to receive client messages; (see col. 6, lines 1-3: network interface for communications between load balancer, clients, servers) and
- c) a load balancing unit which is adapted to select a server to receive at least one of the client messages, at least partially responsive to the contents of the memory unit, and to forward the at least one of the client messages to the selected server. (see col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4: client message directed to assigned server)

Brendel discloses the setup of session identification information such as generating session ID values. Brendel does not specifically disclose a range of values for session IDs utilized managing system load capabilities or a session identifier being selected from a pool of unassigned session identifiers.

However, Choquier and Gongwer disclose:

- a) a memory unit adapted to store configured information specifying a pre-assignment of different groups of session ID values to respective ones of the servers, each of said servers being operative to assign session ID values from its associated one of the pre-assigned groups to sessions handled by the server; (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: a load management system utilizing a range

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of values assigned to each entity (i.e. CPU, server, processor) within a group; values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, session information)) and (see Gongwer col. 2, lines 2-5; col. 9, lines 52-54; col. 12, lines 54-57; col. 12, lines 62-65: session identifier selected from pool of unassigned session identifiers)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values used generating session ID values utilized in a load management system as taught by Choquier, and to enable the selection of a session identifier from a pool of session identifiers as taught by Gongwer. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58), and to employ Gongwer in order to enable the usage of shared transactions and resources across multiple independent client sessions (see Gongwer col. 1, lines 55-61).

Regarding Claim 20, Brendel discloses a load balancer according to claim 19, comprising a configuration module adapted to store the configured information in the memory unit. (see Brendel col. 9, lines 17-22: session ID table information for load-balancer (i.e. configuration module) stored (i.e. disk or memory) within server system)

Regarding Claim 21, Brendel discloses generating a session ID used in message processing for a client by one or more servers. (see Brendel col. 7, lines 40-44: load-

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balancer (i.e. configuration module) utilizing instruction (i.e. atomic operation) for generation of session IDs) Brendel does disclose a range or set of session ID values which may be used for client-server message processing. However, Choquier discloses a load balancer according to claim 20, wherein the configuration module is adapted to generate instructions directed to one or more servers on the session ID values they may use. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: a load management system utilizing a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor); values utilized in the generation of a calculated value (i.e. session ID, session information))

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a range of values used generating session ID values utilized in a load management system as taught by Choquier. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Choquier in order to efficiently balance message processing load among a set of servers. (see Choquier col. 1, lines 54-58)

Regarding Claim 22, Brendel discloses a load balancer according to claim 19, wherein the load balancing unit comprises a comparator adapted to compare at least a portion of at least one of the fields of received client messages to information stored in the memory unit. (see Brendel col. 9, line 65 - col. 10, line 2: compare (i.e. comparator) session ID in client message to a value in session ID table)

2. Claims 6, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Brendel-Choquier-Gongwer and further in view of Baker et al. (US Patent No. 6,611,498).

Regarding Claim 6, Brendel discloses using a configured load balancer and at least one server in a load management system. (see Brendel col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4: client-server message processing utilizing session ID table) Brendel does not specifically disclose a user interface used to configure the load balancer. However, Baker discloses a method according to claim 5, wherein configuring the load balancer comprises configuring through a user interface, which configures responsive to user instructions. (see Baker col. 16, lines 56-59; col. 17, lines 4-11; col. 1, lines 22-27; col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 4: system manager via user interface utilized to manage load management system within a client-server environment)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a user interface to configure and manage a system load mechanism and server systems as taught by Baker. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Baker in order to provide expedient, comprehensive and secure access to client-server message processing. (see Baker col. 2, lines 6-11: "*... provides expedient, comprehensive and more secure data access and reporting services to customers ...*")

Regarding Claim 13, Brendel discloses using a configured load balancer and at least one server in a load management system. (see Brendel col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4:

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client-server message processing utilizing session ID table) Brendel does not specifically disclose a user interface to configure load balancer. However, Baker discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein configuring the load balancer comprises configuring by a system manager. (see Baker col. 16, lines 56-59; col. 17, lines 4-11; col. 1, lines 22-27; col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 4: system manager via user interface utilized to manage load management system within a client-server environment)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brendel to utilize a user interface or system manager to configure a system load mechanism and server systems as taught by Baker. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Baker in order to provide expedient, comprehensive and secure access to client-server message processing. (see Baker col. 2, lines 6-11)

(10) Response to Argument

A. Claims 1, 5, 7, 12 and 14, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,772,333 (hereinafter "**Brendel**") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,668 (hereinafter "**Choquier**") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,138,120 (hereinafter "**Gongwer**").

A.1: Claims 1, 4, 7 - 10 and 14 - 22 - Part I

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Applicant argues that the referenced prior art “ ... teaches directly away from the claimed invention ... ” (see Appeal Remarks Page 5, line 2)

A.2: Claims 1, 4, 7 - 10 and 14 - 22 - Part II

Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose “ ... information specifying a pre-assignment of different groups of session ID values to respective servers, with each of the servers being operative to assign session ID values from its associated one of the pre-assigned groups to sessions handled by that server ... ” (see Appeal Remarks Page 6, Lines 23-25)

A.3: Claim 2

Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose, “ ... *assignment of a range of values from which a given server may assign session IDs ...* ” (see Appeal Remarks Page 7, Lines 10-11)

A.4: Claim 3

For Claim 3, Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose, “ ... listing for a particular server one or more values of a sub-set of the bits of multiple session IDs associated with that server. ... ” (see Appeal Remarks Page 7, Lines 22-23)

A.5: Claim 5

For Claim 5, Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose “ ... configuring at least one of the servers with a rule on the session ID values it may assign to sessions ... ” (see Appeal Remarks Page 8, Lines 4-5)

A.6: Claim 11

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For Claim 11, Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose, " ... configuring substantially all servers by assigning substantially a same number of session IDs to each of the servers. ... " (see Appeal Remarks Page 8, Lines 13-14)

A.7: Claim 12

For Claim 12, Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose, " ... *configuring substantially all servers by assigning a different numbers of session IDs to at least two of the servers. ...* " (see Appeal Remarks Page 8, Lines 22-23)

B. Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Brendel, Choquier and Gongwer** in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,498 (hereinafter "Baker").

B.1: Claims 6 and 13

For Claims 6 and 13, Applicant argues that claims 6 and 13 are allowable based on claim 1.

Examiner Response to Argument dated September 20, 2006

The Examiner's Rejection is proper given that the cited passages of **Brendel (6,772,333)**, **Choquier (5,774,668)**, **Gongwer (6,138,120)**, and **Baker (6,611,498)** disclose the Applicant's claimed invention.

As to Point A.1:

Applicant's claimed invention teaches the storage of session identification information. Claim 19 directly discloses the storage of session identification information. In Applicant's Invention the session ID information is still maintained by the server systems. Applicant's invention merely partitions the stored session identification information table into parts, with each part dedicated to a set of server systems. The session ID value available to the Applicant's invention teaches a range of values available for session identifiers selection.

There is no disclosure within the Brendel prior art that criticizes, discredits, or otherwise discourages, in any way shape or form, the storage of session identifiers within a partitioned storage table as stated by the Applicant. Therefore, the Brendel prior art does not teach away from the applicant's invention.

There is no citation within the Office Action dated April 18, 2006 that refers to column 15, lines 22-23 within the Brendel prior art or relied upon by the Examiner. (see Remarks Page 4, Lines 14-15) The Applicant stresses this citation as a teaching away disclosure. The Brendel prior art recites several methods for server selection. (see Brendel col. 10, lines 6-9; col. 9, lines 53-56: server selection methods) To emphasize, the Brendel prior art does not criticize, discredit, or discourage, in any way shape or form, the usage of a session information storage table. And, Applicant's Invention teaches the storage of session identification information in a table, a partitioned table, but, a still a table.

As to Point A.2:

The Brendel-Choquier combination discloses the selection of a session identifier value. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor) and utilized in the generation of a calculated ID value (i.e. session ID or session information))

And, the Brendel-Choquier-Gongwer combination discloses the capability for the selection of a session identifier from a pool of identifiers. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor) and utilized in the generation of a calculated ID value (i.e. session ID or session information)) and (see Gongwer col. 2, lines 2-5; col. 9, lines 52-54; col. 12, lines 54-57; col. 12, lines 62-65: session identifier selected from pool of unassigned session identifiers)

As to Point A.3:

Applicant specification discloses that, “ ... *each server is assigned a range of numbers from which it may select session IDs to be assigned to sessions. ...* “. (see Specification Paragraph [0012]) The server may select a session ID from a pool of identifiers. The specification does disclose a rule but there is no disclosure what constitutes a rule. The Choquier prior art discloses a random method (i.e. a rule) to select a server (i.e. associated with the identifier) or computer component from a pre-configured list of identifiers for computer components. In the Brendel and Choquier

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prior art combination, the randomization method is utilized in the selection of a server identifier from the pool.

As to Point A.4:

The Brendel prior art does disclose a subset of bits and an association between multiple session identifiers and a session server. IDs associated with a particular server. The Brendel and Choquier prior art combination discloses the capability that one or more values of a subset of information within a session ID are associated with a particular server. The Brendel prior art discloses wherein the server ID (i.e. associated with a server) is encoded within the session identifier (i.e. the server ID will be a subset of the information within a session ID). Since multiple session identifiers are connected to a particular server, bits from multiple session identifiers are associated with a particular server.

As to Point A.5:

Applicant Invention's specification discloses that, "*... each server is assigned a range of numbers from which it may select session IDs to be assigned to sessions. ...*". The server may select a session ID from a pool of identifiers. The specification discloses a rule but there is no disclosure what constitutes a rule. The Choquier prior art discloses a random method (i.e. a rule) to select a server (i.e. associated with the identifier) or computer components from a pre-configured list of identifiers. In the

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Brendel and Choquier prior art combination, the randomization method is utilized in the selection of session identifier from the pool.

As to Point A.6:

The Brendel and Choquier prior art combination discloses that the range of values (i.e. identifiers) can be a constant value or a variable value. (i.e. group A: 1-200, and group B: could be the same range) (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor) and utilized in the generation of a calculated ID value (i.e. session ID or session information))

As to Point A.7:

The Brendel and Choquier prior art combination discloses that the range of values (i.e. identifiers) can be a constant value or a variable value. (i.e. group A: 1-200, and group B: 201-300) (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor) and utilized in the generation of a calculated ID value (i.e. session ID or session information))

As to Point B.1:

Claim 1 has been successfully rejected based on the referenced prior art.

Therefore claims 6 and 13 are rejection based on the referenced prior art.

Conclusion

The referenced prior art discloses Applicant's Invention essentially as claimed. The Brendel-Choquier-Gongwer combination discloses the claimed limitations argued by the Applicant.

Brendel discloses a load balancing system to enable the selection of a server system based a load-balancing algorithm. (see Brendel col. 5, lines 61-67: determine designated server from multiple server for client-server message processing)

The Brendel-Choquier combination discloses the selection of a session identifier value. (see Choquier col. 15, lines 28-41: load management system utilizing a range of values assigned to each entity (i.e. server, processor) and utilized in the generation of a calculated ID value (i.e. session ID or session information))

And, the Brendel-Choquier-Gongwer combination discloses the capability for the selection of a session identifier from a pool of identifiers. (see Gongwer col. 2, lines 2-5; col. 9, lines 52-54; col. 12, lines 54-57; col. 12, lines 62-65: session identifier selected from pool of unassigned session identifiers)

Applicant's invention claims a load balancing system with session identification information (i.e. identifier) selected from a pool of predefined identifiers. Each group of server systems has its own pool of identifiers unique to that particular group. The referenced prior art discloses, as cited, a system, which enables a load balancing system with server system partitioned into groups with each group selecting identifiers from a pool of pre-defined identifier. **This disclosure in the reference prior art is equivalent to Applicant's claimed invention.**

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The rejection to each independent and dependent claim includes a citation from the referenced prior art that discloses the basis for the rejection. Each obviousness combination clearly indicates the claim limitation the combined reference prior art teaches. In addition, a cited passage from the referenced prior art clearly indicates the motivation for the obviousness combination. **Each obviousness combination's disclosure is equivalent to the Applicant's claimed invention.**

Applicant's Invention utilizes the widely known in the art protocol for the management of session identification information popular HTTP protocol to transfer information utilized within a network management system, operational over the Internetwork known as the Internet, and using web based technology. This is not a novel idea based on the fact that several prior art references have been found that utilize this widely popular protocol within a network management environment, and using the Internet as a communications environment. This is not a novel idea. In conclusion, the examiner has considered the applicant's remarks concerning a load balancing system with session identification information (i.e. identifier) selected from a pool of identifiers.

After an additional analysis of the applicant's invention, remarks, and a search of the available prior art, it was determined that the current set of prior art consisting of **Brendel (6,772,333), Choquier (5,774,668), Baker (6,611,498) and Gongwer (6,138,120)** discloses the applicant's invention including disclosures in the Remarks dated September 20, 2006.

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(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.


For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

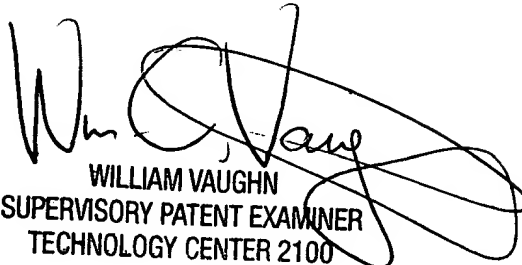
K H S
Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

KHS

November 23, 2006


DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Conferees:


WILLIAM VAUGHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100